

I want to begin with an illustration. Imagine, visualize with me, a drowning swimmer stranded in the open ocean with the waters churning about around him. Panic sets in into this particular swimmer as he continues to try to swim back to shore by flinging his arms in that direction, trying with all of his might to paddle toward a distant shoreline. But every kick, every hand drawing forward is draining more and more of his energy. Every stroke brings him no closer.

Now picture a lifeguard at the shore running towards him, swimming out to the drowning man, pulling him out of the deep water and breathing life back into his lungs. Now, imagine how foolish would it be for that rescued man to step onto dry land, look at the lifeguard, and boast, "Look how well I swam to shore. Look how well I swam to shore."

Yet, spiritually speaking, this is precisely how many of us attempt to approach God. We foolishly think our own righteous acts, our moral performance or even religious activity can pull us out of the spiritual depths of sin. See, we want to always take the credit for our own righteous deeds. We suffer under the weight of our own self righteousness. And it brings so much exhaustion, doesn't it? Trying to earn a standing with God and with man. That is our corrupted nature that we can never ever achieve on our own which is the righteousness of Christ. It only can come from him.

So with that understanding, please stand out of respect for God's word as we continue our study from the book of Titus. And we're going to be in chapter 3. And I want us to read from verse three on down. We read verses three last week, but I want to mention this verse again. How we as believers in Christ were formerly lost in our own ways. Begin reading in verse three with me.

For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving diverse lust and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. Verse four, but after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy, he saved us. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our savior, that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is God's word. Amen. You may be seated.

I want us to first look at verses four and then first half of verse five. And I want you to pay particularly attention that salvation is rooted in God's mercy, not on our merit, meaning not human works, not our own efforts. So look down with me in verse four. He says but after this word is a turning point from a dark past in verse three to then God's rescue in verse four and five. Look down that the kindness and love of God our savior toward man appeared there's a rescue not by works of righteousness which we have done we were drowning in sin but according to his mercy he saved us.

Paul writes again to Titus who is ministering on the island of Crete and which is a culture again notorious for deception rebellion and false teaching and he insisted that our religious claims and legalism by the way we're going to see this or we have seen this look down with me in chapter 1 verse 10 and 16 the he insists that this outward religious claim on legalism here let me just dial

in in verse 10. For there are many unruly, so there's that word, rebellion, and vain talkers and deceivers, specifically they of the circumcision, there's legalism. And then drop down to verse 16. These they profess that they know God, but in works they deny him. Meaning they want to take the credit. Being abominable. Let's just focus on that word a little bit. It means a deeply offense to God's character. It's one of the worst things to be called because it's ultimately idolizing or worshiping false gods than the God of the Bible.

Now, let's look at the word disobedient just briefly. This is living in a way that contradicts the verbal claim. Someone who professes to be a Christian but denies God in their works. And then he goes on in verse 16 and says, "Unto every good work, reprobate." Repbate being another very strong word that God opposes man. It simply is rejecting God. Meaning everything that man tries to do in trying to earn salvation as it were, rescue himself with good works is completely rejected by God. That's the word reprobate. And it's like imagine counterfeit metal, fool's gold, right? At the end of the day, the refiner knows what is real and what is false. The refiner knows. And so another way of saying you can't deceive God. Verses 10 and 16. There's no way to deceive God. He is the refiner. He will test us and he will do it perfectly.

See, the point was for us to come to the end of ourselves. That's what happened to a believer in Christ. He acknowledged that yes, he was deceiving not only himself, not only other people, but he was ultimately thinking he can deceive God, right? Isn't that we were such as some of us? So, he comes to this understanding for us. Paul's speaking to us directly that we cease to come to the to this conclusion that we can deceive ourselves, deceives others and ultimately think we can deceive God and that we we responded in such a way in a way this is what hopelessness does. You do what Acts 16:30-31 then what must I do to be saved? What must I do to be saved? And then what is it? That the only way is Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ. The only thing to do is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. That's all that it takes in us.

Now Paul reminds Titus that before Christ, everyone was trapped. And by the way, this is why Paul mentions our testimony of our past. This is how we used to be. So continue down with me in the words here in chapter 3 and verse three. He goes on and says that we were living in malice. This is a desire to harm, envy, and hatred. And then we ourselves also were sometimes here's verse three. In times past, that's what sometimes mean. Foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving. I want to just emphasize this word serving. I didn't do this last time but it literally means bondage like a slave who is in bondage to their master and that master being sin. So we are once obedient to sin. We were obeying sin in our sinful nature. And he goes on and says we were doing it in various diverse lust and pleasures. They found all types of ways to do this. Living in sin, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. You know what sin does? It causes to be hateful. It causes to hate one another. That's what sin does. Yes, it leads to death, but in the progress of it, you are actually living in a place of hatefulness. You just hate people. And so you go on and actually hate yourself by sinning and you want to be around people that sin. It's a destructive path to ultimate death and sin.

But I want us to look a little bit more into the origin further into our salvation by focusing that is not on human merit or based on human merit. I want you to look down in the text where it says

but the kindness this is the kindness this is transition the transition. This is kindness goodness. This is a gift to us as undeserving sinners. And then he goes on and says the love of God our savior toward man appeared. So our savior toward man appeared. So notice the stark contrast of verse three to verse 4. And you'll be able to see this very clearly if you are a believer in Christ this morning. You will see and recognize your past with the difference with the difference that you couldn't save yourself from your own destruction. Paul explicitly states it not by works of righteousness which we have done. He uses this preposition indicating that salvation does not originate out of or on the basis of our own deeds. Remember, picture the man drowning, right? We couldn't save ourselves. Even our best moral efforts saying, "Oh, you know, I'm a nice person. I I'm I'm a nice person. Won't you please please take me?" No. Those are what's called so-called good works. Because of sin, we are tainted by so-called good works. We are incapable of cleansing our sinful nature. I want you to turn to Isaiah 64 six. Here's how it's described. The so-called good works. We need to understand this. And it's good to be reminded of this as believers in Christ. Turn with me to Isaiah 64:6, and I'll read it as you read silently with me. In the book of Isaiah, chapter 64, beginning with verse 6 says this, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags."

So, do you see your so-called good works as filthy rags? Something of to be disposed of. You don't clean dishes that are clean with filthy rags, right? Do you see your righteousness as filthy rags? And he goes on and says, "And we all do fade as a leaf and our iniquities like the wind have taken us away." He gives us a visual. Imagine a leaf on the floor and then a strong gust of wind blows that leaf. Okay. So, visualize that. That's what Isaiah is trying for us to see. He's comparing the leaf as sin. As sin. And the destructive power that sweeps people away from God is that wind. You see, much like a strong gust of wind blows away that leaf, sin has an uncontrollable urge to get away from God. That's the picture. We're like that leaf blown away. We want to get further and further away from God. That's what sin does. And we have no control over it because you have control of the wind. No one does. That's the idea.

So salvation originates solely in the mercy and compassion of God who held back his wrath from us turning away from him. The ultimate good, ultimate holiness, ultimate perfection. We turn away from him. Of course, he's going to be full of wrath and has stepped in to rescue us when we were utterly helpless. Again, another description, the Bible puts it, we are like sheep gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way. That's what sin does. We turn everyone to his own way. We just go on on the opposite direction instead of towards God.

Another way to illustrate this, I used this last time, but I want to use in a different way. Imagine you were a person standing before a judge where you had to pay millions if not billions of dollars because of debt that you yourself put yourself in. So you yourself put yourself in this debt situation. And then think about how foolish it would be if you would take out a piece of copper penny, a copper penny, and you go up to the judge and go, "Here, here's my part of this debt. Can I go now?" You would, that would be very foolish, wouldn't it? Imagine the judge going, "Are you kidding me? Did I did you not look at how much debt you have and you come to me and you present just a little copper penny? You see, that's what many of us do. We try to settle our balance our own foolish way. We make all sorts of claims as foolish as this, as insulting as this.

This is how so-called righteous works looks like to God. It's insulting to cancel our really infinite sin and debt brings God a bringing God a penny to pay that off is the most insulting thing that God that you could do towards God. And yet many many people deceive themselves thinking they can approach God this way.

How about this analogy? Imagine standing in line to get to heaven and you think that it takes a ticket to get in, a ticket to heaven. And how foolish would it be that you actually drew this ticket in your own writing and saying redeem to get into heaven. And you wrote this down and you approached God and you said, "Here's my ticket. It says redemption on it. What what would you think God would do in that case? How would God accept that foolish redemption ticket? No matter how much you might put in in detail, no matter how much effort you put in, you colored it all up and you put it all nice for God to see this. Yet, it remains invalid. Why? because it didn't come from the host. It didn't come from God himself. You see, that's what moral self effort puts us in. We think we can somehow make our sinful actions beautiful. Somehow we can make it look like something that it is not what it is. That's what sin does. It deceives us to thinking that we can somehow make sin beautiful. And it's not. God grants us his presence so that we get out of this deception, namely the debt, the foolishness of bringing a penny to God to pay off our debt of sin and then trying to foolishly think that we can somehow create our own ticket into heaven by making sin look good. And we know that it is not. Amen.

Because the way Jesus died on the cross was gruesome to the point of death. You see, you can't come with your sinfulness because there has to be death. Someone had to die to get in. It's either you dying to hell because you can't die to get to heaven. Someone that is perfect. Someone who did it not your way, trying to make your so-called works beautiful, but actually showing what sin really looks like. It looks like death on the cross. It looks like blood pouring down from every open wound on the back of the Lord Jesus to the open wounds in the hands and the feet and the crown that was placed on his head. See, in our deceitfulness, we don't want to display that, do we? We want to cover all that up in our so-called good works. No, there's only one good work and that work is of what Jesus Christ did on the cross. And debt had to be paid for. The sin of debt had to be done by death. The sin of his ugliness had to be displayed on a crucified rugged cross. That's the true way of salvation.

So God saved you because of who he is. He was kind and merciful for us as believers. He showed us his kindness and mercy. And he showed us he opened our eyes to see the Lord Jesus Christ for who he is. He was not just a good teacher like most people describe of him. He wasn't just any person like all of us. No, he was without sin. No, he wasn't just a prophet who would be advanced by another so-called greater prophet. No, he was the son of God. He was the lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world. That's who we trust, who he is, not because of what we did.

You see, when we come to the end of ourselves, the other thing that happens to us, we stop trying to perform. We stop trying to bring effort. We start trying to display ourselves thinking that we are good. No. When the Holy Spirit works in a believer's heart, you truly are convicted of your sin. And everything that you think is good, it looks like filthy rags. It just looks dirty. And

then you come to this place of what must I do then to be saved? Even in our sinfulness, we still think we can do something. But the only thing as again acts 16:31 says to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. We can rest in the finished work of Christ today and forever more. Amen.

That was verse three beginning and then end first half of verse 5. Look down with me the second half of verse five and through verse six. Here we're going to see salvation is applied by the spirit's cleansing and renewal. It begins with by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our savior. Question to ask here at this juncture is how does God apply his grace and mercy? How does God apply his grace and mercy? He uses two distinct pictures. The Apostle Paul first the washing of regeneration. The washing of regeneration. This literally means new birth or another way of putting it the source coming from a new place. The source coming from a new place. It's literally a spiritual reworking from the inside out instead of the outside in. See, God makes us literally brand new, completely new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 makes this clear. Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Not partially, no. A new creature. Old things are passed away. Titus verse three, chapter 3. Behold, all things are become new. New? Is that you this morning? Is everything new to you? You once thought that I can do good things. Suddenly you think that's not true anymore. Suddenly you thought I could pay off this debt, but now you don't. That's the new man in you. You know that you got to depend on God through Jesus Christ and then God the Holy Spirit. You see the washing pictures here. A soul literally dunked into a cleansing bath. Okay? Stripped of all the filth of sin and cleansed thoroughly. Not just exteriorly, but the soul. Who can cleanse the soul? Can you? No one. You see, and then he says the word with abundance. You see that? Abundantly. This wasn't a little sprinkle of water. This was a complete abundance of water as it were regenerating you as a person. Only God can do that inside out. Only God can do that. And he raised us up pure. Notice that. And he raised us up pure. Notice verse two or rather not verse two the second part of verse five he says renewing of the Holy Ghost. This is the outward change coming from an inward transformation completely different from the way we used to try to please God by external. Now it is now an internal and the Holy Spirit is working towards glorifying God. In our flesh we can't glorify God. Only the Holy Spirit within us can do that. So that's the renewing of the Holy Ghost from the inside out. The spirit of God connecting us to the God of heaven. And he imparts then a new mind. The word renewing comes a renewed mind, a heart that is now aligned to God's thoughts and words. Suddenly the word of God becomes living. It's not just written on the page of the Bible. It is now living within you. Is the word of God living within you? Does God bring to mind words of scripture when you're turning away from him? He tells you exactly from God's word, his word living inside of you say, "No, that's going to turn you to sin. That's going to do what Isaiah 64:6 will do." Do you remember you were like that leaf being blown away? No. Now I have you. I have you. Is does those things come to mind? Let's go to Ezekiel chapter 36 beginning in verse 25 to verse 27. This is what God does. The regeneration of man by the Holy Spirit. Ezekiel is speaking prophetically of the future time of when God's Holy Spirit will literally live within mankind. This is Isaiah chap rather Ezekiel chapter 36:25. He says this, notice the repetition of will I. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you and you shall be clean. From all your filthiness, and from all your idols will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I be within you. And

I will take away the stony heart out of the flesh. And I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and ye shall keep my judgments and do them. Do you see anything of man here but all of God with the repetition of will I and I will. And he will he will give us a spirit that will be able to obey him. That's the word at the end. Do them.

Now look with me Romans 12:2. Romans 12:2. So we looked at what washing of regeneration does in Ezekiel 36, but in Romans 12 verse 2 looks at the renewing of the Holy Ghost. It says, "And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." That's the Holy Spirit. That you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. You see what the Holy Spirit does? It does things that are what? Good and acceptable and perfect will of God. You thought it was your will pleasing God. No, it was the Holy Spirit living in you pleasing the will of God. You see how everything is of God and not of our works.

Notice the measure of the spirit's giving. He was shed on us abundantly. Never say, "Oh, I only have a little bit of his spirit." No, this text corrects that. There is an abundance of God's spirit working in you. I gave the illustration from John 4:4. He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world. The Holy Spirit is greater than the spirit of Antichrist. Antichrist meaning Satan, the father of lies. You see, the father of all truth is more than the father of lies. Do you recognize that truth in your life? God didn't dispense the spirit with an eye drop as it were and small supply drip by drip. No, he implies here in the text a rich lavish pouring of his spirit like a picture overflowing a basin. Can you picture that in your life right now? The restoration that God does is complete. It is full and it's thorough and it's abundance. It's abundance. We have a great and abundant savior who gives us his spirit in us. You see, imagine standing under a roaring waterfall versus holding a single drop of water and standing underneath it. That's the kind of picture, the illustration that comes to mind. The Holy Spirit hasn't been dripped onto your life. No, he has been poured out abundantly. And that abundance, by the way, is his power. God's power and presence of God. For what purpose? What is all this abundance of God's power by the Holy Spirit? What is its purpose? To overcome sin. To overcome sin. You see that is what we are right now as believers in Christ. We are more than conquerors by who? By Christ Jesus. We are more than conquerors. God gave us his spirit so that we can be more than conquerors. Do you see the emphasis there? It's not just a little bit conquering in our lives. No, more than conquerors. Many times we glance over those verses and go, "Today is going to be a hard day. Today is going to be a difficult day." But when you think about and meditate on that verse, no, you're more than conquerors of the day. Do you truly trust God in that fashion? Believers, I'm here to encourage you by God's word of what God can do in your life. If you will just empty of yourselves of everything in your life and put on more of Christ, put more and filled of the spirit of God in you. You see, we got to yield more. That's the idea. It's a word of yielding to the spirit daily. You cannot live the Christian life in the power of your flesh. We know that. But what are the things that you actually meditate on and remind yourself so that you don't live in the flesh? Namely, the living word. Namely, the living word reminding you of who is in you. Who is in you to overcome the sins of the world. So you don't have to, you know, trying to do something about fixing your life by listening to the self-development and self-help books that are all out there that are just a waste of time because those things only fix the exterior. If you remind yourself of that,

what people are trying to do in the world is trying to fix the exterior. I gave the illustration on Wednesday of toxic water being dumped at the source of a reservoir and it enters into your kitchen sink. You don't go and scrub your kitchen sink. No, you go to the source where the water is being flooded into your sink. That needs to be fixed in order for your kitchen sink to not pour dirty water. And unfortunately, many people are deceived thinking they can clean the kitchen sink and not actually resolving the source. The heart the source. The heart not aligned to God. A heart that trusts in their filthy works. A heart that ultimately depends on himself instead of God to save them. So it's important to understand these truths to surrender your life.

Again, we know that justification is by faith. Objectively, that is true. But what sanctification does, sanctification meaning you're becoming more and more like Christ. You have to remind yourself what is Christlike's nature. Then if you're not thinking about Christlike nature, then how do you know you're becoming more like Christ? Think about that. How much are you actually thinking about Christ in your life and how he is transforming you from the inside out to become more like him? Then he's going to bring to mind those things that are Christlike. And he's going to tell you, you got to renew your mind. You got to yield to the Holy Spirit because it is by yielding to him that you can do that which is perfect, that is acceptable unto the will of God. He is the one that directs our affections to set our minds to things above and not on the things of this earth. He is the one that empowers us that he is in control, not us every day.

Now then look at verse seven. Verse seven, salvation is secured in our eternal hereship. Verse seven, that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Here the apostle Paul brings the triune God's work of salvation. We do believe in the trinity. God the father, God the son, God the holy spirit. And he brings in the triune God here of the work of salvation in its glorious climax. First look down and see the words justified by his grace. We are declared righteous in God's court. Again, not by our works, but what Christ has done for us on the cross. Fully cleared, not guilty, not because of our legal standing, but through Christ's finished work again on the cross. Then he goes on and says, "We are made heirs." What does this mean? Once we are justified by his grace, our status changes from condemned sinners to children of God. That's what heirs of God means. You are now a child of God. So what does that mean then? If we're children or child of God, he goes on. He says, "We are done. We are made heirs by according to the hope of eternal life." You see, a child of God has now eternal standing before God and in his presence. Meaning that we're going to be with him forever and ever. We have now been it's adoption language. You've brought us out as children of the devil to children of God. Complete transference cannot be reversed ever again once you become an heir. And he says according the mission was to bring hope of eternal life. See biblical hope is not something we hope for. We don't have to ever say I hope that this will happen or I hope that this would happen. Yes, you can say it but only to the things of this world but when it comes to our eternal life that's secure. That hope is secure. You don't have to say I hope so. You know so it is a promise for every child of God. It is rock solid confident expectation of our future inheritance with God. And that allows us to be free from the presence and power of sin forever. You see, our status changes. So we don't live horizontally anymore. We are now living ultimately vertical. And he reorders our lives that we live vertically first before horizontal. Before we thought we could live horizontally to please God. And that will never work. It means

needs to be a complete reversal. And that's what God does. That's the hope. Amen. That that has been reordered in our lives.

So an illustration for this, I share with you the adoption process. So just think of an orphan with no name behind him, no money, no right to stand before a king. Suddenly his debt is canceled. His last name is changed. He is in the beloved and then he is handed entrance into the palace of the king. This is what literally happens instantaneously by God. Our status completely changes. Not because the orphan earned it again. He had no name, no money, no standing before a king, but because the king set his love upon him. He adopted him. By adoption, everything comes with it. It's good to think about these things over and over again. What God has made us to be, an unshakable trust. God wants us to have in this adoption process. No earthly inheritance can give this rock solid guarantee because ultimately if we rely on this earth's inheritance, what happens? Your fear of it being stolen, your fear of getting it taxed, losing its value, depleting the inheritance because it doesn't it goes down at some point. You see in eternal inheritance rather is completely different completely different because it's not affected by this world. How many times have you thought of it that way? It never loses value because Christ is eternal value. Have you ever thought about that? That's the kind of hope that we have, the security that we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. The guaranteed unfading locked up in heaven for us. You see, nothing can touch heaven. That's another way of putting it. Who can get to heaven and destroy our inheritance? The answer is no. Because no one can destroy the Lord Jesus Christ. See, when we live with eternity in view, that's what Paul is doing here. He's saying just focus on the eternal things. That's going to change this inner disposition more towards the things of God and bringing the hope that you need to carry on day to day, eternity in view. When earthly circumstances press in or worldly temptations allure you, remember who you are. Paul's saying, remember who you are in your inheritance as an heir of God. You are a joint heir with Christ. Christ bought you into that inheritance. When he was back in heaven, the seat at the right hand of God the Father after his earthly mission was done. That was for us to remember. We're going to be with him. We're going to be with him there. So do not trade then as unfortunately Esau did with this royal birthright, selling it for a morsel of oatmeal as it were today. What are you relinquishing of your own birthright? What are you giving up in exchange for your soul? As Jesus said, some people are doing it for small things. Such small things compared to the eternal weight of glory and value of Christ. The deception is that Satan does is to value God to make you think that what you have is better than what God can give to you. Don't let Satan trick you into that deception, that hopelessness. Focus instead on what Christ has done. Satan wants to trap you into the lust and of your passions of your own sin. But we can never we can never rescue ourselves from his traps. You see, someone had to do it from the outside. You can never get out of the trap yourself. Just like the shore, someone had to rescue us to bring us to shore. Same with Satan's traps. God has to remove this trap from us. We can never ever pull ourselves up out of the pit of our own deception. So we thank God that his kindness, Amen, his goodness, his love towards us and our savior appeared to us. Jesus Christ again went to the cross, bore the penalty of our sins, died our death, and rose again so that he could wash us so he could renew us and justify us by his grace. The father, son, and holy spirit have done everything necessary to save you. You cannot earn it. You must simply turn to him in faith and receive him as your savior and lord. If you have not, we are not saved by



the merit of our works. This is what we conclude here. Not by our works, but by the mercy and grace of our savior Jesus Christ. If you are here this morning and you sense God is working in your heart has shown you that yes, I've been living up to this point thinking I can deceive myself, thinking I can deceive others, thinking I can deceive God. This is the word I want to share with you. Look at the areas of your life. Where in your life have you been relying on self effort or been carrying a performance mindset thinking you can perform for man, perform for God, thinking that guilt will go away. It will never go away. It'll never go away. Titus 3:5, however, save you can be saved by mercy. He doesn't want you to keep living this way. That's what mercy is saying. He does not want you to keep living by your own effort, by your own performance, by your own deception, living in guilt. He wants to remove all that guilt from you. Amen. He wants to do it. And he wants to save you by his mercy. We deserve to go to hell. We deserve to go to hell because of our sin. Does that come to your senses right now? Do you can you acknowledge that in your sinful condition? I don't deserve this. This is too amazing. Yes, it's amazing grace when you look at it that way. It must be done from outside of you. And all you have to do is surrender yourself to God's mercy and his grace who is making himself available to you right now. There's a word in scripture that says today is the day of salvation. Meaning from the point that Jesus went to die on the cross for your sins to the moment that you may die or Jesus comes back, you have this open window where he appeared to all of us to bring salvation to us. Does that come to mind to your heart right now? If it does, God will pour out his mercy. God will make it very clear. All you have to do is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. It's a promise and we rest in his promise. No one else. No one else. Let's pray.

Father, we thank you that you give us everything that we need for our salvation in Christ and then everything that we need to continue to live the Christian life, whether we die or whether Christ comes back. Lord, you give us the Holy Spirit to overcome the sins of our lives. We thank you, Father, that we just simply need to yield to you and just we just need to trust you with our lives day in and day out. And you will bring to remembrance your word, your living word in us by the work of the Holy Spirit will always point us back on the right path, will always help us to keep the end in mind that we have eternal life and no one can steal that eternal life from us. Our inheritance is in heaven. And we thank you, Father, that that's where we're going to be with you forever and ever in our glorification. Help us, Father, to think upon these things as believers in Christ. And for those that are outside of Christ, Lord, reveal to them why they're living in guilt, why they're living the way they are, where they feel like they're a slave to their sin and can't get out. Help them, Father, that it must be you that releases the trap that Satan has put upon them. And it is not their own effort that can get them to the shoreline as it were. They need a savior and that savior is the Lord Jesus Christ. Point them to him, Lord. Point them to the cross, Father, that it was the finished work on the cross that ultimately brought us salvation. Father, please work in this way and we'll thank you for the good work that you will do because you are a good and perfect father in Jesus.